

MESSAGE FROM THE SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH CHIEF

The holiday season is once again upon us and with that the end of another year. A lot has happened in this last year and we expect more of the same as we head into the year 2001.

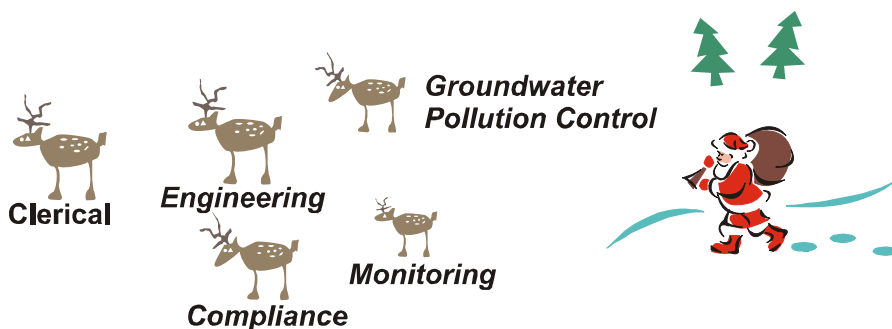
In 2000, the Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) was again very busy with the development and implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendment requirements and other program activities. Besides the normal program activities that are performed by the Safe Drinking Water Branch, some of our accomplishments in 2000 include: conducting of distribution system operator certification training which was attended by approximately 400 water system personnel; continued development of an Operator Certification Program including amending Chapter 25, related to certification of water system operators; the continuing development of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program and the issuance of two more loans (about \$1.755 million to the Kauai Department of Water Supply and about \$0.739 million to the Hawaii Department of Water Supply); the continued work towards completing assessments under the Hawai'i Source Water Assessment Program; and continuing regulation revision and enforcement of the Underground Injection Control Regulations are just a few that quickly come to mind. In 2000, we received two visits from the State Auditors Office. The first reviewed our monitoring, compliance and data management activities (see article beginning on page 2 of this newsletter). The second, on-going audit, is reviewing the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program.

In 2001, the SDWB expects to implement an EPA-approved operator certification program and continue implementation of the capacity development, drinking water state revolving fund, and the source water assessment programs. We will also be preparing for implementation of the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, the Stage 1 Disinfectant/ Disinfection By-Product Rule, and assisting EPA with the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation. Revisions to Chapter 20 will once again be expected as we incorporate more federal drinking water requirements so that the State can continue to receive primacy for the safe drinking water program as well as incorporate requirements for E. coli monitoring under the Total Coliform Rule requirements and incorporation of the source water assessment requirement for new source approvals. EPA is expected to require implementation or finalization of up to 4 new rules which will have a significant impact on the Safe Drinking Water Branch as well as water purveyors. The year 2001 is expected to again provide a challenge to the staff of the Safe Drinking Water Branch and water purveyors.

On a personnel note, Queenie Komori (Engineering Section) left to work for Hawaiian Electric, Michael Miyahira (Engineering Section) was hired; and Donald Yasutake (Engineering Section) received a Sustainable Superior Performance Award. I would especially like to acknowledge our Branch secretary, Gail Masaki, who this year completed her 30th year of service to the State of Hawaii.

As we close out 2000, we celebrate another year of ensuring safe drinking water for the people of Hawaii. On behalf of the staff and management of Safe Drinking Water Branch, we wish you and your family a joyous Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. **See you all in 2001!!!**

*William Wong, P.E., Chief
Safe Drinking Water Branch*



“SANTABILL lead by his trusty reindeers (uh, staff), once again met the challenges of the year 2000.”

MESSAGE FROM THE HAWAII PWSS PROJECT OFFICER



"Aloha 'oukou" from EPA Region 9 in San Francisco. I'd like to add my seasons greetings, and congratulations to the members of the drinking water community of Hawaii, for another year of hard work and safe water! Some of the highlights for 2000 from EPA's perspective include:



- Ø conducting and widespread attendance at, distribution system operator training courses;
- Ū revisions of the Hawai'i operator certification requirements in order to meet new federal guidelines;
- Ū growth and improvements in the management and other activities related to the drinking water state revolving fund (loan) program;
- Ū administrative activities being conducted related to state primacy packages for new regulations; and
- Ū integration activities being initiated related to source water assessments with other program regulations and requirements.

In 2000, I have been fortunate to be able to meet with SDWB staff, HiAWWA representatives, county water system managers and operators, technical assistance providers, and others from the State, on several occasions. I have noticed in Hawaii an encouraging trend of what appears to be increasing collaboration and a spirit of working together, amongst both the "regulators" and the "regulatees", with the common goal of providing a safe and potable water. In the spirit of the season, this is truly an area where the "lions and the lambs" must, and are, working together for a common goal. The State Auditor's report (summarized later in this Waterspot) indicates that although there are some areas that can be improved, Hawaii public water systems are consistently providing safe water to the people of Hawaii.

All of you - regulators and regulatees, state and county employees, treatment plant and distribution system operators, managers, administrative support - should be proud of the work you do to ensure that your citizens are provided with a safe and healthy drinking water. Have a happy holiday season, and good luck in the new millennium. A hui hou kâkou!

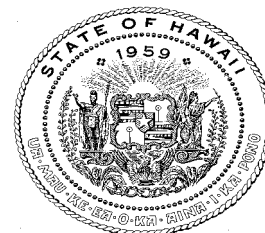
Barry Pollock, USEPA
Hawai'i PWSS Program Project Officer



STATE AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE STATE'S DRINKING WATER PROGRAM



State Auditor's Report Says "State Oversight of Public Water Systems Is Adequate But Could Be Improved."



In response to an invitation by the National State Auditors Association, the State Auditor's Office participated in its 2000 joint audit project. "Water quality" was selected as this years joint audit topic, due to its relevance to many of the member states and the complementary nature to recent audit work by some states. Safe Drinking Water and the Department of Health's oversight of public water systems was chosen by the Hawaii State Auditor as their specific aspect of water quality. The audit was conducted pursuant to Section 23-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which requires the State Auditor to conduct postaudits of the transactions, accounts, programs, and performance of all departments, offices, and agencies of the State and its political subdivisions.

The objectives of the audit were to assess whether the Department of Health has effectively monitored public water systems to ensure that they distribute safe drinking water, assess whether the department ensures safe drinking water and the protection of public health by appropriately and effectively utilizing available enforcement procedures, assess the department's use of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and to make recommendations as appropriate.

The audit, which was performed from January 2000 through September 2000, was limited to assessing the Department of Health's activities related to drinking water that is distributed by public water systems for human consumption. The audit did not assess the department's efforts with regards to groundwater protection. The audit reviewed the activities of the Monitoring Section, Compliance Section, and Water Treatment Plant Operator Certification Program of the Safe Drinking Water Branch.

The Auditor's review of the Department of Health's oversight of public water systems found that, overall, the department has ensured that safe drinking water is distributed to the public. Effective monitoring and appropriate enforcement of violations have contributed to the high quality water Hawaii currently enjoys. However, as with any audit, the auditors also found that there was room for improvement. The department's monitoring practices require clarification; and timely enforcement action against serious violators is essential but lacking. The current data management system should be integrated to reduce the occurrence of inaccurate data and wasted staff time. Finally, resources available to provide financial assistance to public water systems could be maximized with appropriate departmental staffing and long-term planning.

The State Auditor concluded that the State of Hawaii, through the Department of Health, is charged with the implementation of a complex system of regulations to ensure that public water systems distribute water that is safe to drink. Overall, the department is effectively managing the safe drinking water program. With a few exceptions, the Auditor found that the department has satisfied monitoring requirements for 1999, enforced microbiological violations in a timely and appropriate manner, followed water collection procedures, revived its sanitary survey program, met public notification requirements, and appropriately certified water treatment plant operators through an administratively attached board.

However, deficiencies in several areas point to the need for additional improvements by the Safe Drinking Water Branch. They include: safeguards to protect the integrity of water samples are unclear and require clarification; timely sanitary surveys and enforcement actions against serious drinking water violators have been lacking but are necessary to minimize the risk to public health; a fragmented data management system that results in inefficient use of staff time and inaccurate computer-generated drinking water information; and inadequate staffing and the absence of long-term planning have resulted in the department's inability to maximize the use of available resources.

Recommendations Provided By the State Auditor

1. The Department of Health should continue to ensure that safe drinking water is distributed to the public through a comprehensive monitoring program. The director of health can improve oversight of public water systems by ensuring that the Safe Drinking Water Branch:
 - a. Monitors for all contaminants as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act and carefully reviews all monitoring results;
 - b. Evaluates its current chain of custody policies and procedures to determine whether they reflect current practices and revises them as necessary;
 - c. Reviews all chain of custody reports to verify that drinking water samples are appropriately documented and, as necessary, provides training in proper chain of custody procedures and documentation;
 - d. Completes, at a minimum, sanitary surveys required by the Total Coliform Rule and makes an effort to conduct sanitary surveys of other high-risk systems;
 - e. Develops a systematic program for follow-up on sanitary survey recommendations;
 - f. Expedites its decision of either adopting an EPA-developed information system or implementing an alternative integrated information system; and
 - g. Conducts timely quality assurance of all paper and electronic data and reprograms existing databases to prevent default entry of extraneous data.
2. The director of health in cooperation with the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Water Treatment Plants, should continue to ensure that all water treatment plant operators are appropriately certified.

3. The department should continue to address violations in a timely manner and ensure that the public remains informed of all safe drinking water violations.
4. The department should exercise greater vigilance in bringing significant noncompliers back into compliance by ensuring that the Safe Drinking Water Branch:
 - a. Initiates enforcement action in a more timely manner with the assistance of the attorney general's office;
 - b. Routinely reminds systems on compliance schedules to submit status reports; and
 - c. Exercises its penalty powers on systems that exhibit a lack of commitment to resolving noncompliance.
5. The department should maximize the use of available resources to protect drinking water supplies by:
 - a. Working with public water systems with high priority projects to ensure that they will be ready to apply for assistance;
 - b. Continuously evaluating whether the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program is adequately staffed; and
 - c. Developing a long-term integrated expenditure plan for all funds available to the safe drinking water program.

Department Response To The State Auditor's Report

In responding to the Auditor's Report, the department thanked the Auditor for their efforts to review and improve the operations of the Safe Drinking Water Program, as well as the diligence and professionalism of its staff in conducting the audit.

The department, after reviewing the report, concurred with the conclusions and recommendations that were offered. The subject areas covered by these conclusions and recommendations demonstrated a remarkable understanding of a program with greatly varying and complex requirements. The Safe Drinking Water Branch is in agreement with and committed to implementing the Auditor's recommendations pertaining to: improving sample security, executing timely enforcement, implementing a usable data management system, increasing the number of sanitary surveys conducted, and making effective use of available resources.

The commitment of the Safe Drinking Water Branch to implement these recommendations is illustrated by the following activities currently underway:

- (1) Requesting to establish a data processing systems analyst position to help improve data management operations;
- (2) Proposing to convert an existing position to a quality assurance officer to implement our quality assurance program plan, including addressing chain of custody issues such as sample security and custody documentation;
- (3) Training Safe Drinking Water Branch staff in conducting sanitary surveys and making additional staff available to conduct sanitary surveys;
- (4) Revising the regulations to include requirements for water system owners and operators to respond to significant deficiencies identified during sanitary surveys of their water systems, including tightened sanitary follow-up actions;
- (5) In FY2001, procuring a contractor familiar with the use of State Revolving Funds to develop a 10-year needs assessment and plan for effective use of available funding, including addressing loan fund preservation issues and resource needs;
- (6) SDWB has funded additional Attorney General support which has already improved our ability to take timely enforcement actions and expedited the processing of loan agreements; and
- (7) To assure the timeliness of our loans to drinking water systems, the staffing requirements for administering the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund are now almost complete. There remains the hiring of one environmental engineer and the rehiring of an accountant.

UPDATE ON THE NEW DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS

CHEMICAL CONTAMINANT REGULATIONS	PROPOSED	FINAL	EFFECTIVE
Suspension of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring for Systems serving less than 10,000			3/99
Revision of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring for Systems greater than 10,000 and selected systems less than 10,000	4/30/99	9/99	1/01
Amendment to Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring	5/15/00; 9/13/00 amends.	12/00	
Radon (CWS on groundwater only)	11/99	1Q/00	9/03 or 2/05
Lead and Copper Rule Revisions		1/00	4/11/00
Radionuclides (uranium+radium+gross alpha+beta&photo emitters) (CWS and by state option NTNCWS)	proposed 7/18/91 NODA 4/21/00	11/00	11/03
Arsenic (CWS – but NTNCWS must monitor)	6/22/00; NODA comments 11/20/00	6/01	6/04 (>10,000) 6/06 (<10,000)
MTBE (secondary regulation)	12/00 (?)	?/01	?
SURFACE WATER TREATMENT REGULATIONS	PROPOSED	FINAL	EFFECTIVE
Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (IESWTR) SW systems serving population > 10,000	7/94; 7/13/00 minor mod.	12/98; ?/00 minor mod.	12/01; 1/1/02
Stage 1 Disinfectants/Disinfection By-Products - SW serving population > 10,000 - SW systems serving population < 10,000 & all GW systems	7/94; 7/13/00 minor mod.	12/98; ?/00 minor mod.	--- 1/1/02 1/1/04
Filter Backwash Recycling (SW systems that recycle)	4/10/00	12/00	11/03
Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT1ESWTR) SW systems serving population > 10,000	4/10/00	12/00	12/03
Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection By-Products (All PWSs adding disinfectants)	3/01	5/02	5/05
Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR) All PWSs on Surface Water	3/01	5/02	?
OTHER REGULATIONS	PROPOSED	FINAL	EFFECTIVE
Public Notification	5/13/99	5/4/00	10/31/00 (DI) 5/6/02 (others)
Reformatting All Drinking Water Regulations – direct final	?	?	
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)		8/00	8/07/00
Groundwater Rule (all systems on Groundwater)	5/10/00	6/01	6/04
Class V Injection Wells		12/7/99	4/5/00

**USEPA - DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE PROGRAMS PUBLISH PROPOSED RULE TO RESTRICT
USE OF CHLORINE GAS IN WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS
COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED**



On September 18, 2000, the USEPA - Pesticide Programs published a proposed rule that identifies the use of chlorine gas in water and wastewater treatment plants as a restricted use. This change in classification/designation to a "restricted use" will result in changes in the labelling of chlorine gas and would require operators to receive certified applicator training for chlorine. Under this proposal, one certified applicator will need to be present during all operations involving chlorine gas. This proposed rule is a revision of a proposed rule originally dated March 10, 1999.

Copies of this proposed rule and other related documents may be obtained from: the EPA Internet homepage at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>. To access information related to chlorine gas, go to <http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/> and select the documents listed under chlorine gas.

The official comment period has been extended to December 18, 2000. Comments should be submitted via mail to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460. Comments may also be submitted electronically via e-mail to: opp-docket@epa.gov

DOES YOUR SYSTEM NEED IMPROVEMENT? TIME TO SUBMIT NEW DWSRF PROJECTS



**** REPRINTED FROM THE NOVEMBER 2000 ISSUE OF "THE WATER SPOT 2000". ****

The SDWB will now be accepting "**Proposed Project for DWSRF Funding**" forms until **January 20, 2001**. All non-federally owned public water systems are eligible for DWSRF funding. Because of the lead-time necessary to fulfill all of the federal requirements, such as public review and comment, **ALL submittals must be received by the SDWB or postmarked by January 20, 2001.**

We encourage everyone to submit forms for qualified construction projects which you are interested in funding over the next five years. Having your project on the priority list early will allow you to qualify for funding at the time that you need it. Extra consideration will also be given to "small public water systems" (service population less than 10,000).

Please complete one form for each project you wish to be considered. If your project was on a previous priority list, you may reaffirm your interest in receiving an SRF loan by writing to the SDWB or simply resubmit the form with any updated information.

Please note that a submitted project form and inclusion of the project on the Priority List will not guarantee the issuance of a loan. Qualifying for a loan will depend upon a number of factors including, but not limited to, the water system's ability to repay the loan. Also, EPA prohibits loans to be given to any public water system that does not have adequate technical, financial, and managerial capacity to comply with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations.

Unfortunately, the DWSRF program is currently not prepared to issue loans to privately owned, public water systems. However, we encourage privately owned, public water systems to submit projects to be accepted and included on the priority list, as it is our intent to develop procedures that will allow all eligible water systems to apply for DWSRF assistance. In addition, listing all proposed projects will help document the need for continued and increased funding of the DWSRF program.

We look forward to receiving your completed "Proposed Project for DWSRF Funding" form(s) and working with you to address any drinking water compliance problems. If you have any questions, concerns or require assistance, or to request a copy of the "Proposed Project for DWSRF Funding" form, please contact Denise Dang at 586-4258.

SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH

On November 9, 2000, the fifteenth and last Basic Drinking Water Distribution System Operator Training Course was completed. The Safe Drinking Water Branch would like to express its gratitude to our training contractors, the Rural Community Assistance Corporation and Pural Water Specialty Company (subcontractor) for a job well done. Their tremendous effort in developing and conducting this extensive, state-wide training program was greatly appreciated by everyone involved. We are looking forward to their Utility Management training session at the upcoming American Water Works Association, Hawaii Section's annual conference and, the planned distribution operator refresher training in June 2001.

Finally, the Safe Drinking Water Branch would like to take this opportunity to thank all water purveyors who sent their employees to the Basic Water Distribution System Operator Training Course and "retroactive" certification examination. Almost 400 operators took advantage of this valuable training and certification examination opportunity. We are grateful for this high level of participation as this training program would not have been successful without your attendance. We recognize that each employee's time is valuable, and attending training for 5 days is a significant impact. Participation in this capacity development program represents a strong commitment to public health protection and complying with drinking water regulations.

UPCOMING TRAINING WORKSHOPS

On December 12-13, 2000, the Safe Drinking Water Branch and the Environmental Protection Agency will jointly conduct a workshop on new drinking water regulations. The workshop, sponsored by the Hawaii Section, AWWA is titled, **"Microbes, Disinfectants, and Disinfection Byproducts in Water Systems -New requirements, and strategies to meet the new requirements for water systems"** and is intended as a practical, operator focused workshop to meet some of the challenges pointed out in EPA's proposed Ground Water Rule (GWR) as well as other new rules related to disinfectants and disinfection byproducts for both groundwater and surface water systems.

There is still time to register for this workshop, which is open to anyone with an interest in these regulations. The primary audience for this workshop is staff and management from groundwater systems. It should also be useful to those from both large and small surface water systems, consultants, and other state agencies. For more information or to register for this workshop, please contact Jacky Takakura at (808) 270-8046 or via fax at (808) 270-7951 or email at jacky.takakura@co.maui.hi.us.

Risk Management and Safety for Small Water Systems

A One-day Workshop on Risk Management and Safety for Small Water Systems will be held at the Hawaii Department of Health's Environmental Health Facility, 1582 Kamehameha Avenue, Hilo on January 10, 2001 from 7:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. The workshop will be presented by the Rural Community Assistance Corporation and hosted by the Hawaii Department of Health, Safe Drinking Water Branch. **There is no fee to attend this workshop.**

Drinking water system management, supervision, operations and maintenance personnel are invited to attend and participate in a one-day workshop on risk management and safety in the workplace. The workshop will cover safety considerations for water utilities, legal responsibilities, identification and management of hazards, OSHA regulatory requirements, risk management plans and emergency response planning and record keeping.

The attendance/registration will be limited to the first 24 participants. In the event of greater demand, a second workshop will be held on January 11th. Continuing education units may be awarded to workshop participants.

RSVP via fax (808) 327-9698 or phone (808) 896-3886, ask for Glenn Johansen.

Frequently, we hear the comment that many water system operators rarely get to see an issue of “The Water Spot.” Since the information may be of interest to many persons, we strongly encourage water utilities to circulate or post copies of our newsletter so that they may be kept informed. Thanks for your help in spreading the news and keeping our postage costs down!!

The Water Spot 2000 is published by the Safe Drinking Water Branch, Environmental Management Division of the Hawai`i State Department of Health and is distributed to water purveyors, water system operators, staff, consultants, and other interested parties.

The Water Spot 2000 may also be viewed on the Safe Drinking Water Branch’s web site at:
<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/eh/sdwb>

Please send your suggestions, ideas, questions or comments to:

THE WATER SPOT 2000
Safe Drinking Water Branch
State Department of Health
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 308

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

OR

Fax us at (808) 586-4370, Attn: “THE WATER SPOT 2000”

SDWB WEB SITE:
<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/eh/sdwb>

HISWAP WEB SITE:
<http://www.aloha.net/~will/hiswap.html>



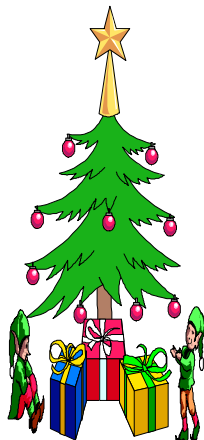
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Environmental Health

The Water Spot (Holiday 2000)
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PLEASE BE SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON – “DON’T DRINK AND DRIVE”.